

To: greengeodude@gmail.com[]
Cc: CN=Danla Boykin/OU=R2/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Letitia Cadeau/OU=R2/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Alice Yeh/OU=R2/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]; N=Letitia Cadeau/OU=R2/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA;CN=Alice Yeh/OU=R2/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]; N=Alice Yeh/OU=R2/O=USEPA/C=US@EPA[]
Bcc: CN=Elizabeth Butler/OU=R2/O=USEPA/C=US[]
From: CN=George Zachos/OU=R2/O=USEPA/C=US
Sent: Thur 4/8/2010 9:39:54 PM
Subject: Re: Passaic River Information (LCAU-848G4L, WI No.58, RPL No.10230)
Hotspot
<http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/diamondalkali/relateddocs.htm>
ye.alice@epa.gov

Good Afternoon Dave,

Thank you for contacting the US Environmental Protection (EPA) Agency to obtain information for your school paper on the Passaic River project and for your interest in the environment!

Your e-mail below was forwarded to this Office this past Monday (April 5) for response.

In answering your questions additional information is being provided that hopefully make the answers more meaningful.

The Passaic River project consists of the "Lower Passaic River Study" which is one of the three operable units of the "Diamond Alkali Superfund Site" which also consists of the "Newark Bay Study Area." By taking the proper cleanup actions, the remaining part of the River should not be contaminated.

The Lower Passaic River Study Area includes the 17-mile tidal stretch of the river from Dundee Dam to Newark Bay and tributaries. In 2004, the EPA formed a partnership with various federal agencies and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to conduct a joint study of the Lower Passaic River. The agencies are using the authorities of the Superfund Program, the Water Resources Development Act, the Clean Water Act and other laws to revive the River. Goals of these agencies are to remediate contaminated sediments, improve water quality, restore degraded shorelines, restore and create new habitats and to enhance human use.

As part of this effort, in January 2009, the EPA announced the selection of a final cleanup plan for the first stage of a two-phased project to remove dioxin-laden sediment from the lower Passaic River. An "engineering evaluation /cost analysis" report was written to study various cleanup alternatives for the contaminated sediment. Four alternatives were developed that all dealt with removal of the contaminated sediment from the River and are discussed in the document "Proposed Plan for Passaic River Phase I Removal." The selected option is the "Mechanical removal with Mechanical Processing." Under this plan, the most highly contaminated sediment will be removed using a mechanical dredge, which will be able to handle the large and bulky debris in the sediment. This mechanical method is more effective at removing material in close proximity to the existing shoreline structures than the other three options and will also expedite the time to complete the cleanup. The sediment will be processed and dewatered using a mechanical process that will be using sheet piling to segregate the sediment to be removed from the rest of the River so that it does not get dispersed back into the River. The field work for Phase 1 is scheduled to start early in 2011, and is expected to be completed within approximately nine months at a cost of about \$45 million. The action calls for 40,000 cubic yards of the most contaminated sediments to be removed, treated and disposed of at one of a few facilities permitted nationwide to accept such waste. The agreement also requires the companies to remove an additional 160,000 cubic yards of sediment with lower concentrations of dioxin and place them in a confined disposal facility. This second phase will have a separate cleanup proposal and will undergo its own engineering study. For more information on the pending non-time critical removal action, please go to the URL "Action Memo for Passaic River Phase

I Removal.”

Due to the long URLs associated with the above documents it is not practical to provide the individual URLs for the above referenced reports in this response. To obtain the individual links, please visit the “Additional Documents” web page for the Diamond Alkali site that is provided by the web page: <http://www.epa.gov/region02/superfund/npl/diamondalkali/relateddocs.htm>. The URLs for these reports will enable you to obtain additional information on the above topics.

Regarding your question if an EIS was prepared, Superfund sites do not require an EIS. The requirements of an EIS are basically provided by the Remedial Investigation (RI) /Feasibility Study (FS) for this and other sites.

If you need additional information, please contact Alice Yeh [212-637-4427, ye.alice@epa.gov].

Have a nice day,

George H. Zachos
Accelerated Cleanup and Stabilization Manager and Regional Public Liaison (formerly Ombudsman)

Web Inquiry

From greengeodude@gmail.com
Delivered Date 04/05/2010 01:57 AM
Subject Passaic River Information

Hello,
I am writing a paper for a class that I am taking and I was wondering if there was an EIS done for the Passaic River Project? I really need information about what alternatives were considered during the project. In addition I would like to know if there have been any updates (the latest information is from 2008)? More specifically about what time this year the project is supposed to start.

Thanks for your help,
Dave Kent